



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-9966



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2016

Contact: Bill Meyer
(800) 392-3202

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS – MARCH 1, 2016

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

As of March 1, Colorado growers intend to plant 1.25 million acres of **corn** for all purposes in 2016, up 150,000 acres, or 14 percent from last year's plantings, according to the March 1 Agricultural Survey conducted by the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. **Sorghum** intentions total 360,000 acres, down 80,000 acres from plantings last year. The area expected to be seeded to **oats**, at 30,000 acres, is down 15,000 acres from a year ago. Most of the oat acreage in Colorado is harvested for hay. Growers intend to plant 78,000 acres of **barley** in 2016, up 13,000 acres from last year's actual plantings. **All wheat** acreage is expected to total 2.21 million acres for 2016. **Winter wheat** seeded last fall for harvest in 2016 is estimated at 2.20 million acres, down 200,000 acres from the 2015 crop. Growers intend to seed 6,000 acres of **spring wheat** this year, down 2,000 acres from last year. **Hay** producers in the State intend to harvest 1.40 million acres this year. This is down 50,000 acres from the acreage cut for hay in 2015. Growers intend to plant 49,000 acres of **sunflowers** this year, down 24,000 acres from what they planted in 2015. The acreage of oil varieties is expected to total 40,000 acres, down 20,000 acres from last year's plantings. The area for non-oil varieties is expected to be down 4,000 acres to 9,000 acres this year. The area planted to **sugarbeets** is expected to be up 5,300 acres from last year's actual plantings to 32,800 acres. **Dry edible bean** acreage is expected to total 55,000 acres, up 10 percent from the 50,000 acres planted in 2015. As of March 29, mountain snowpack was 96 percent of average, statewide. Final acreages actually planted for several crops will be determined by irrigation water prospects, soil moisture levels at planting time, and changes in economic conditions between now and actual planting.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn planted area for all purposes in 2016 is estimated at 93.6 million acres, up 6 percent from last year. If realized, this will represent the highest planted acreage in the United States since 2013, and will be the third highest planted acreage in the United States since 1944.

Growers intend to plant 7.22 million acres of **sorghum** for all purposes in 2016, down 15 percent from last year.

Area seeded to **oats** for the 2016 crop year is estimated at 2.75 million acres, down 11 percent from 2015. If realized, United States planted acres will be the third lowest on record.

Producers intend to seed 3.14 million acres of **barley** for the 2016 crop year, down 12 percent from the previous year. If realized, this will be the fourth smallest seeded area on record.

All wheat planted area for 2016 is estimated at 49.6 million acres, down 9 percent from 2015. The 2016 **winter wheat** planted area, at 36.2 million acres, is down 8 percent from last year and down 1 percent from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 26.2 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 6.60 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.37 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to **other spring wheat** for 2016 is estimated at 11.3 million acres, down 14 percent from 2015. Of this total, about 10.7 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended **Durum** planted area for 2016 is estimated at 2.00 million acres, up 3 percent from the previous year.

Producers intend to harvest 54.3 million acres of **all hay** in 2016, down slightly from 2015.

Growers intend to plant a total of 1.69 million acres of **sunflower** in 2016, down 9 percent from last year. If realized, planted area for the Nation will be the fourth lowest since 1977. Area intended for **oil type varieties**, at 1.44 million acres, is down 7 percent from 2015. The area intended for **non-oil varieties**, estimated at 249,400 acres, is down 19 percent from last year and will be the lowest since 1987, if realized.

Area expected to be planted to **sugarbeets** for the 2016 crop year is estimated at 1.16 million acres, virtually unchanged from 2015.

NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Area planted to **dry beans** in 2016 is expected to be 1.56 million acres, down 12 percent from the previous season.

For a full copy of the *Prospective Plantings* report please visit www.nass.usda.gov.